

President Emeritus - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP President - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ Vice-President - Walt Snyder, N2WJR
 Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR Treasurer, Don Mayotte, KB2CDX
 Board Members: Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP Russ Greenman, WB2LXC Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Moving Day Arrives

More than a dozen EGARA members were on hand to help move the club to the Rensselaer County Search and Rescue Building (RCSAR) on Saturday, March 30th. The move from the Masonic Lodge was postponed after a major ice and snowstorm struck the area the week before.

With plenty of help showing up, the move was completed in just a couple of hours. Among the items taken to the new location were three file cabinets, and totes containing Field Day and Hamfest equipment, as well as various club supplies. Several members brought their pickup trucks, allowing everything to be transported in a single trip.



The decision to move the club's headquarters came after the Masonic Lodge requested a substantial rental payment for continued use of the facility. Previously, EGARA provided building and lawn maintenance in return for use of the building. A similar "in-kind" non-monetary arrangement has now been reached with RCSAR.

"We're looking forward to creating a strong partnership with Rensselaer County Search and Rescue," said EGARA President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "In addition to regular building maintenance, we're also hoping to be able to make contributions that improve and enhance the facility. This partnership also makes sense given our joint missions of providing service to the community."

EGARA membership meetings will continue to be held the second Wednesday of each month, except during July and August. In addition, the facility will be used for events like Field Day.

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WWW.EGARA.ORG is New Website URL

The club's website has moved to a new web address, also known as its URL -- **www.EGARA.org**.

It replaces the previous URL which used the ".club" suffix. The website content itself remains the same. Club members and others who regularly visit the site should update their web browser bookmarks so it can be easily accessed in the future.

The URL update better reflects the club's status as a non-profit 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

The "org" suffix was not available when the current website was originally created.

Next Membership Meeting - April 10, 2024 - Club Elections

EGARA Elections Use Little Known Bylaw Provision

Using an obscure club bylaw, EGARA Board members held a special election in late March prior to the annual election set for the April membership meeting.

At the urging of President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, the Board agreed to secretly and unanimously elect Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC, as the club's new President. Under the bylaw's provisions, her election is binding and she will be required to serve until the board decides otherwise.

"I expect we'll hear a lot of moaning and a constant stream of 'no, no, no' from Gina, but it is what it is," said Jackson. "I wish her all the best, because she's really going to need it."



Newly elected EGARA President Gina Pendolino, now reported under a doctor's care following her "secret" election to the office.

After being informed of her election, it was reported that Gina was admitted to a local Psychiatric Center, placed under a doctor's care, heavily medicated and put in a rubber room on a 24 hour watch. Outgoing President Jackson was quoted as saying, "Despite rumors to the contrary, this ain't no April Fools joke.... you can believe that."

Meanwhile, the "real" annual election of club officers will be held during the regular membership meeting on April 10th. All of the executive offices and one board position will be on the ballot. Nominations are now open and members interested in serving are urged to consider running for one of the open positions.

Those who wish to run should forward their nomination to w2rbj@outlook.com so they may be listed on the ballot. Nominations will also be accepted during the April meeting from the floor prior to voting.

In order to run and to vote, club members are required to be in "Good Standing" as prescribed by the club's bylaws. This includes a requirement that current dues be paid. Members who need to submit their 2024 dues can do so at the meeting prior to the election vote.

This election cycle will also complete the "staggering" of open board seats. Previously, all three board seats would be open every three years. In order to allow members more opportunity to serve on the board, one board seat is now open annually.

At least two of the incumbent officers have decided not to run for re-election. They are Club Treasurer Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, and Club Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR. Members are urged to consider running for these open positions.

Members should also consider running for the open board position.

So far, those who have agreed to run include Dave Jaegar, K2DEJ, who will be on the ballot for Secretary, and Pat Negus, KD2ZQR, and Dave Gillette, KC2RPU, who are running for the single open board seat.

Finally, outgoing President Jackson will make a motion at the April meeting asking members to approve that raffle proceeds now be used for Ms. Pendolino's long-term care, and that she be bestowed with the title of "President-for-Life".

Need to Pay Your Dues?

It's as easy as www.EGARA.org/pay-dues

On the Beam

News & Notes

The Great American Solar Eclipse Coming April 8th

Hams Asked to Help Study the Effect on Radio Signals



A total solar eclipse that will be seen across North America will take place on Monday, April 8th. It will be the last of its kind in the US for the next 20 years and Northern New York will see its full effect, giving Amateur Radio operators in the region a chance to help study how the atmosphere functions and impacts radio waves.

Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) is the group coordinating and conducting experiments. It offers details on how hams and shortwave listeners (SWLS) can participate, and what they hope to learn from the event.

Among its events will be the Solar Eclipse QSO Party, an opportunity for amateur radio operators to operate during the eclipse, before, during and after it passes over North America. Using various modes (CW, voice, and digital), two-way transmissions (QSOs) made during the SEQP will contribute to scientific studies focusing on the ionosphere's reaction to the eclipse.

The studies should lead to a better understanding of the interactions between the Sun, the ionosphere, and radio wave propagation. That research should benefit hams, professional broadcasters, satellite operators and many other users of radio spectrum.

More information about how to participate can be found on the organizations website at: <https://hamsci.org/>

2024 ARRL Field Day Theme: *Be Radio Active*

The theme for 2024 ARRL Field Day is "Be Radio Active."

During Field Day -- which is set for June 22-23 -- the objective is for operators contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

As in years past, the event will be one-part contest, one-part emergency communications exercise, and one-part open house -- and a great time. The theme encourages radio amateurs to take advantage of the peak of Solar Cycle 25, which we are nearing. Activity this year is likely to be extremely high thanks to favorable solar conditions. The upper HF bands, such as 15 and 10 meters, should benefit most.



Amateurs interested in learning more are invited to join the Field Day Facebook group to connect with others who are planning for the big weekend. The Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/arrlfd/>. Links to all of the resources can be found on the ARRL Field Day web page at: www.arrl.org/field-day.

EGARA expects to hold its Field Day exercise at its new home at the Rensselaer County Search and Rescue Building.

Bob Heil, K9EID, Silent Key

Major Supporter of EGARA Hamfests Passes at Age 83

Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, the man who defined the sound of live rock 'n' roll music and brought audio engineering principals into mainstream amateur radio use, has died at the age of 83 following a year-long battle with cancer. He was a long-time supporter of EGARA's Hamfests, providing the club with high-end audio gear to give away as prizes.

"We could always count on Bob to support our Hamfests with top quality Heil Amateur Radio equipment," said EGARA President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "All I had to do was send Bob an email asking for some gear to give as a door prize and he'd shoot me a reply within minutes. And, he never skimped on what he sent -- it was always something every ham would be proud to own and use."



Heil was always active in Amateur Radio, an ARRL Life Member and a member of the ARRL Maxim Society. A Facebook post from Heil Ham Radio paid tribute to their founder: "Bob fought a valiant, yearlong battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family."

He founded Heil Sound in 1966, through which he created the template for modern concert sound systems for musicians like the Grateful Dead, The Who, Joe Walsh, and Peter Dinklage. "RIP, man. I love you and miss you already. Sending love to Sarah and to the world of audioheads you leave behind," said rocker Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, in a Facebook post.

The talk box used on iconic live record Frampton Comes Alive! was Heil's design. His audio engineering products have been featured in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and he was honored in 2007 with the Parnelli Audio Innovator Award for his impact on the live sound industry.

"My life has been about achieving great sound, whether on the concert stage or in the amateur radio world," Heil recounted in 2022. "I've watched Heil Sound go from a regional sound company to a world-class microphone manufacturer. This company has been my passion," he said.

Parallel to his commercial and artistic success in live music, was his passion for amateur radio. He was active in ham radio from a young age, and he merged his expertise in audio engineering with his love for radio. Heil Ham Radio was founded to produce microphones, headsets, and other gear for radio amateurs with an emphasis on high-quality audio. Heil was known as a mentor who enjoyed helping others find success in ham radio. And, he was a generous donor to Amateur Radio organizations, including ARRL. Recently, he donated a host of new audio gear to the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW.

Recently, his grandson Charlie Hartley, KF0OOP, became a licensed ham to surprise Heil for his birthday. The pair attended the ARRL Midwest Convention/Winterfest in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 27, 2024.

"Bob was a titan in many areas. He was generous with his time, offered keen insights, and had the heart of a philanthropist in the ARRL Maxim Society," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "He was a gentleman to his core, making friends easily and everywhere he went, from rock stars to captains of industry. I consider it a real privilege to have become a friend to him, too, all because of Amateur Radio."

Heil was known for his passion for AM operations. He served for many years as an on-camera host of the Ham Nation podcast. Tributes to Heil have been flooding social media, including from his co-hosts.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said Heil's passing is a significant loss. "Bob Heil's technical achievements that brought high-quality audio to amateur radio pale in comparison to his generosity and willingness to help his fellow ham. He's long been known as someone eager to help mentor and teach. His legacy on our hobby will be long-lasting. Our thoughts are with his loved ones."

EGARA March Meeting Minutes

- The March meeting of the EGARA was called to order by President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ at 7:01 PM (EDT). There were 20 members in attendance at the Masonic Temple. After a round-robin introduction, a raffle was conducted and several nice prizes were given away.
- President Jackson gave his monthly report. He announced that a special VE session was planned for one candidate. EGARA is now fully stocked in order to facilitate VE sessions. The Extra class exam question pool has been updated. Those who are interested may take the Extra exam using the current study guide on April 20th or May 25th.
- Member dues are being accepted and can be sent via PayPal. With annual election of officers scheduled for the April meeting, it is important for members' dues be up-to-date in order for them to cast their votes. Don Mayotte will not be running for another term as club treasurer. Bryan Jackson displayed a humorous poster announcing Gina Pendolino's Presidential candidacy, all in good humor.
- The final Lodge cleanup will be conducted on Wednesday, March 27th at 10:30 AM. Volunteers are appreciated. News letter articles and For Sale items should be sent to President Jackson. Also, articles for sale may be listed in the club newsletter Sidebands - send information to W2RBJ@outlook.com.
- A 100 watt Motorola repeater is now available for swap out should the need arise. Also, alternate locations near Pinnacle Mountain are being explored. Field Day ideas are being discussed to plan for this year's event. RPI ARC will hold a flea market swap meet on March 30th, 8AM at the RPI student union. Bob Heil, K9EID, founder of Heil Sound, passed away on February 28th. Bob was an enthusiastic sponsor of the annual EGARA Hamfest.
- Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR reminded members to check the club website, EGARA.org, for past newsletters where they may read minutes of prior meeting(s). Also, Steve outlined his plan to finish restoration work on the CCA 1000 broadcast transmitter, following completion of a basement floor repair project. Some random musings were aired regarding the current 27 repeater site, and the re-establishment of the RPI 2 meter repeater, pending cable installation. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.
- After the business meeting, members worked to stage the equipment totes in the basement prior to relocation to the RCSAR building.
- Refreshments were enjoyed by the membership.
- Minutes recorded by Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR
- **Final Thoughts from WB2HPR:** *The March 2024 minutes of the meeting above are my last. I have been the EGARA club secretary for many years, and I am stepping aside to allow new blood to infuse the leadership ranks. At the April meeting, you will elect leaders of EGARA for 2024 and beyond. The strength of an organization is derived from those who participate, and with new blood, comes new ideas. In order for our club to thrive and move forward, member participation is needed. I have made every attempt to accurately record the essence of our meetings, without editorializing or dramatization. Hence, the meeting minutes are pretty dull reading – after all, they were written as records, not as entertainment. In any case, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your club secretary. I am truly honored that you put your trust in me to make an accurate account of these proceedings. Now, it is time to close my note book and lay down my pen. Wishing the best of luck to my successor and 73 to all the EGARA membership.*

Radio Yesteryear...



In the realm of Radio & Electronics, women's involvement has been scarce, but the narrative of Mary Texanna Loomis (3YA) (1880-1960) defies convention. Born on August 18, 1880, near Goliad, Texas, she became the first woman to lead a Radio Engineering College, shattering gender norms.

Raised in Buffalo, NY, and later settling in Virginia, Mary's early life hinted at a middle-class upbringing marked by a profound interest in music and languages. She adeptly mastered French, German, and Italian.

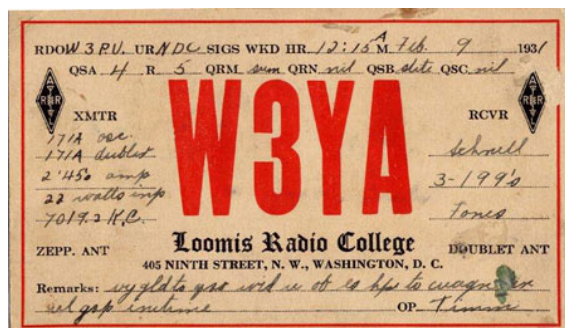
During World War I, Mary immersed herself in wireless telegraphy, influenced by her cousin Dr. Mahlon Loomis, an early wireless experimenter. By 1918, she secured a license from the U.S. Department of Commerce.



Following an early marriage shrouded in mystery, she founded the Loomis Radio College in Washington DC in 1920 after being captivated by the burgeoning field of "radio".

Her dedication attracted students globally and earned the institution acclaim for its high standards.

Mary Loomis' groundbreaking contributions to radio education endure through her seminal book, "Radio Theory and Operating".



Anagram Fun

“The Morse Code” = “Here Come Dots”

America's Last Morse-Code Station

Maritime Morse code was formally phased out in 1999, but in California, a group of enthusiasts who call themselves the “radio squirrels” keeps the tradition alive.

By Saahil Desai / Photographs by Ann Hermes - Atlantic Magazine



“Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence.”

With that, in January 1997, the French coast guard transmitted its final message in Morse code. Ships in distress had radioed out dits and dahs from the era of the *Titanic* to the era of *Titanic* (the movie). In near-instant time, the beeps could be deciphered by Morse-code stations thousands of miles away. First used to send messages over land in 1844, Morse code outlived the telegraph age by becoming the lingua franca of the sea. But by the late 20th century, satellite radio was turning it into a dying language. In February 1999, it officially ceased being the standard for maritime communication.

Nestled within the Point Reyes National Seashore, north of San Francisco, KPH Maritime Radio is the last operational Morse-code radio station in North America. The station—which consists of two buildings some 25 miles apart—once watched over the waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Both KPH sites shut down in 1997, but a few years later, a couple of radio enthusiasts brought them back to life. The crew has gotten slightly larger over the years. Its members call themselves the “radio squirrels.” Every Saturday, they beep out maritime news and weather reports, and receive any stray messages. Much of their communication is with the SS Jeremiah O’Brien, a World War II-era ship permanently parked at a San Francisco pier.

Last July, the photographer Ann Hermes visited the *radio squirrels* and stepped into their time machine. To send a message, they tapped each Morse-code letter into a gadget called a “bug,” generating a loud, staticky noise that reverberated throughout the whole building. “It’s almost like jazz,” Hermes told me—a music of rhythm and timing that can sound slightly different depending on who is doing the tapping.

-continued on page 8-

America's Last Morse Code Station...

Some of the hulking machines date back to World War II. The squirrels do their own repairs, and scrounge eBay for replacement parts on the newer units. To honor the station's past, the volunteers start each Saturday morning with "services" for "The Church of the Continuous Wave," in which they eat breakfast off vintage plates branded with the Radio Corporation of America's old logo.

Morse code is not quite extinct: The U.S. Navy still teaches it to a few sailors, and in 2017, a British man who had broken his leg on a beach used it to signal for help in the dark with a flashlight. Many of the radio squirrels are retired or nearing retirement. But when Hermes visited last summer, she spotted one 17-year-old hovering around the squirrels in action. Born after the effective end of Morse code, he was nonetheless eager to help keep the jazz going.



More About KPH



Point Reyes National Seashore in California is home to KPH
It's operating schedule is on page 9

The Maritime Radio Historical Society (MRHS) was formed on 12 July 1999, the date of the supposed last commercial Morse transmission in the US. On that day Tom Horsfall and Richard Dillman resolved that the tradition of commercial maritime Morse could not be relegated to the dustbin of history. With that in mind they visited the KPH transmit and receive sites in Bolinas and Point Reyes - closed for two years.

They were amazed to find not the vandalized sites they expected but instead an intact radio time capsule - with the receivers still on, maintaining a watch on the Morse calling channels.

Their mission became instantly clear: they should form an organization to repair, restore and operate KPH as a way to honor the men and women who for 100 years had made the profession of radiotelegrapher one of honor and skill. All they had to do was convince the National Park Service since the station sites are part of the Point Reyes National Seashore.

With trust and vision that are still amazing to think about, the Park Service gave these two radio squirrels, previously unknown to them, the go-ahead. Since then the MRHS has succeeded beyond what Tom and Richard thought possible in their wildest dreams. Not only has KPH returned to the air but so has KSM, KFS and K6KPH. This has been possible only through the efforts of the dozen or more volunteers who make up the MRHS and who feel honored to contribute to our mission.

World Amateur Radio Day is April 18, 2024



World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) will be celebrated on April 18, as it is each year

The theme for 2024 is, "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy." The global event covers all of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) regions and spans two days: Thursday, April 18, 2024, 0000 UTC to Friday, April 19, 2024, 0000 UTC.

On April 18, 1925, the IARU was formed in Paris and will celebrate its centenary in 2025. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was the organization's first president.

Radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to enjoy the global friendship with other amateurs and to show their skills and capabilities to the public. WARD is not a contest but rather an opportunity to talk about the value of Amateur Radio to the public.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short-wave spectrum could support long-distance radio signal propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was "in grave danger of being pushed aside," the IARU's history has noted. These pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to promote the interests of Amateur Radio worldwide and to protect and enhance its spectrum privileges. Today, the IARU is a federation consisting of more than 160 national amateur radio organizations in as many countries and separate territories. The International Secretariat of the IARU is ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio in the United States.

ARRL reports that there are more than 775,000 hams in the United States and some 2,400 ARRL-affiliated radio clubs, including the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association.

"Radio clubs provide opportunities for newcomers to discover radio and to become ham radio operators," said ARRL's Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "Clubs develop the personal radio communications capability of their members, operating together or from their home stations, in portable settings, and from nearly anywhere."

World Amateur Radio Day is also a great opportunity to promote Amateur Radio as a lead-up to ARRL Field Day, which is held each year during the fourth full weekend in June. Hams can also promote their personal WARD activities on social media platforms like Facebook by using the hashtag #WorldAmateurRadioDay.

EGARA Now "Field Stocked" for FCC Exams



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has approved EGARA to be field stocked with all of the testing materials needed to conduct FCC license exams.

The designation means the club will no longer have to request test materials in advance each time it is holding an exam session. It also allows the club to give exams for members who are ready to test for their license or an upgrade. Previously, ARRL granted the club permission to expedite processing of licenses by allowing it to submit test results electronically, eliminating potential delays when applicants paperwork is mailed.

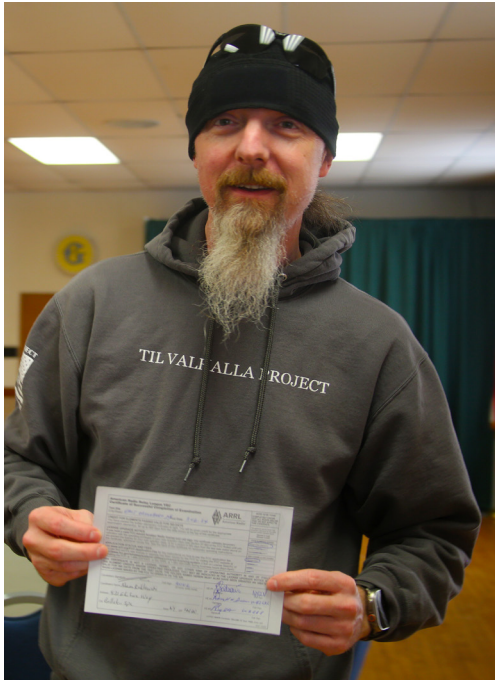
"Our good standing with ARRL and solid past performance in conducting exams has been recognized and given us the opportunity to be more flexible in scheduling test sessions," said EGARA President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ.

The next test session is April 20th at the East Greenbush Library at 10 am.

(see related story on page 10)

EGARA Mints Another New Ham

Capital District Off-Roader Makes Tech Class 100% Success



The ninth member of EGARAs recent Tech class for a local off-road group passed his license test in a separate exam session held March 16th, making the passing rate for the class 100%!

Adam Radlowski of Ballston Spa scored his Tech ticket at a special private VE session held by the club after he was unable to attend the original licensing class test held in February. He was assigned the call KE2CYO.

The class was held for the Capital District Jeep Wrangler Enthusiasts after the club approached EGARAs about helping its members get their Technician licenses. The group had been using Citizen Band radios to stay in touch during its off-road events, but wanted to upgrade to Amateur Radio in order to take advantage of repeaters and radios with more flexibility and power.

The three EGARAs Volunteer Examiners who administered the test at the Masonic Lodge were Russ Greenman, WB2LXC, Pete Sochocki, NY2V, and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ.

EGARA is planning to hold additional licensing classes in the future, including training for both the General and Extra licenses.

EGARA Exam Sessions Provide Chance to Upgrade

Before *Extra* Test Questions Change

EGARA is scheduling two exam sessions to give Amateurs a chance to upgrade their licenses to the Extra class before the exam is overhauled on July 1st. A preview of the new question pool for the Element 4 exam reveals that it will be more difficult than the current question set, with several new technologies being included in the updated test.

The first exam is scheduled for April 20th at 10 am at the East Greenbush Community Library. A second exam session will be set for June, with the exact date, time and location to be announced.

“Anyone with a General license who’s looking to upgrade should seriously consider studying for the current Extra test, as the revised test will be much more challenging,” said club president Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. “We’re planning on holding two test sessions in order to provide ample opportunities to take, and hopefully pass, the Extra class license exam.”

The test sessions will also offer exams for the Technician and General class licenses. Those who plan to take their test are requested to RSVP by sending an email to W2RBJ@outlook.com with their name and the test(s) they wish to take. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

For details on preparing for the exams can be found on the EGARAs website at:

<https://www.egara.org/ve-exams-sessions>

Springtime Maintenance Tips

By Steve Vansickle, WB2HPR

Well, here in the northeast, spring weather has finally made its debut – albeit with a bit of a stormy start. With the recent snow/sleet/freezing rain storm we recently experienced, it's a good time to reflect on how we were prepared for the weather conditions that came our way. Specifically, were we able to use our radio equipment, even though we may not have had commercial AC power? Did our backup power systems operate as planned? Were batteries charged? Did we have a supply of extension cords, a stockpile of water and supplies? – These are but a few of the contingencies we should be thinking about – because our radio systems might be called upon to provide vital communications should disaster strike.



Now, with the snow melted, we can also inspect our antenna systems for damage. Look at ropes which are used to hold up HF wire antennas. Are they free of wear and tear? Are they becoming brittle or frayed? If so, its time to get some new antenna rope on order. Unless you enjoy replacing your antenna ropes every year, consider using polypropylene U/V resistant antenna rope. It is available from most ham equipment suppliers. It's available in various diameters in bulk spools. (You could split the cost of a larger spool with another ham in order to benefit from a lower per/foot cost, and also save on shipping) Don't be fooled into using cheap "paracord" – it is not U/V resistant – and has a lower breaking strength. Polypropylene antenna rope will last for many years and has superior abrasion resistance.

While you're at it, check wire antenna insulators – some of the inexpensive plastic insulators also deteriorate in the sun. They can be easily protected by covering them with a layer of Scotch electrical tape. Also, look for missing spreader insulators if you're using open wire tuned feeders or a multi-band fan dipole. These can easily work loose in the rain of with excessive ice loading.



Last, check your coaxial feedline and connectors. Often, troubles can be traced to a bum connection at the antenna or where the cable enters your house. Again, when replacing coaxial line, try to buy brand name coax from a reputable seller. The cheap imports just don't last as long and often have poor shielding, and the jackets are not always the non-contaminating material. And one last thing --- check your ground rod connections. They should be snugged down tightly ensuring you have a safe, secure connection to protect you, your dwelling, and your radio gear.

There you have it – a few spring “shack-cleaning” ideas to help you keep your station in top condition, ready to operate whether during routine radio traffic or during a time of need that provides a link to the outside world during a moment of crisis. So, enjoy spring – summer awaits us!

FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission has announced a change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN.

As of March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication began with users prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which is sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it said.

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp>, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).



International Marconi Day is April 27th

This year, International Marconi Day (IMD) is on April 27. Italian inventor and electrical engineer Guglielmo Giovanni Maria Marconi was born in April 1874, and is credited for inventing the radiotelegraph system, creating Marconi's law, and sending the first wireless transmission over the open sea.

IMD was created to honor Marconi and is hosted annually by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, GX4CRC. The purpose of the day is for amateur radio enthusiasts around the world to contact historic Marconi sites using communication techniques similar to those that he would have used.



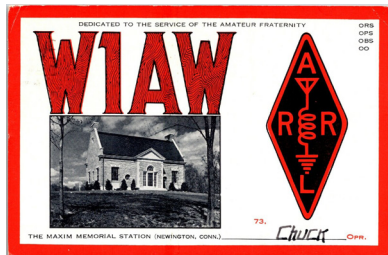
The 24-hour event will operate from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, and registration is required. Participants can register at GX4CRC's registration web page at <https://gx4crc.com/imd/imd-registration/>.

Stations in the United States, including Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club, KM1CC, in Massachusetts, are already registering for the event. KM1CC hosts several on-air events each year to keep the accomplishments and story of Marconi and his wireless station site in South Wellfleet alive.

In 1975, the Wellfleet station was listed as a National Historic Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and is now part of Cape Cod National Seashore, a unit of the National Park Service. When possible, KM1CC sets up a temporary radio station inside the park.

More information about KM1CC is available on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/KM1CC/>.

W1AW 2024 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule



Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM EDT)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 (4 PM EDT)	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 (5 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily
2200 (6 PM EDT)	DIGITAL	Daily
2300 (7 PM EDT)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 (7 PM EDT)	CWf	Tue, Thu
0000 (8 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily
0100 (9 PM EDT)	DIGITAL	Daily
0145 (9:45 PM EDT)	VOICE	Daily
0200 (10 PM EDT)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 (10 PM EDT)	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 (11 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 50.350 147.555
 DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 50.350 147.555
 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 50.350 147.555

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM EDT), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, and CW/digital/phone bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The CW/digital/phone audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on the web at: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

*Spring Has Arrived!... Time for New Shack Upgrades!
Get The Gear You Need From a EGARA Hamfest Sponsor!*



CALENDAR

April 10, 2024 - EGARA membership meeting - 7 pm, Rensselaer County search & Rescue, 16 Neptune Street, Rensselaer. Election of officers.

April 20, 2024 - FCC License Test Session, 10 am, East Greenbush Town Library

June 2, 2024 - Annual EGARA Hamfest. East Greenbush Volunteer Fire Department, Phelps Road, Rensselaer.



GEAR FOR SALE

- Two HP Z-400 Tower Workstations. Both have XEON processors. One with Windows 10 Pro -24G RAM -160G SSD; One with NAS4FREE-12G RAM-16G SSD. Extra parts and memory. \$200.

Contact Dave, WA2WAP
at voyagerusa@verizon.net

- Icom R20 handheld receiver, excellent condition - \$350.00
- Uniden 436HP Digital Scanner, excellent condition - \$400.00

Tom, KB2WRH at 518-312-2874 or
fierrorealtyservices@gmail.com

- Kenwood 520S transceiver, \$250.

Contact Ridge at kb2hwl@gmail.com

- VIBROPLEX "Bug" semi-automatic key. Original "PRESENTATION" Model with Gold Plated baseplate escutcheon. Beautiful heavily chromed upper parts, bright red finger pieces, jeweled bearings. Lists for \$350, sell only \$250, plus postage. Beautiful wood case.

Contact Steve at: (518) 326-0902 or
stevewb2hpr@gmail.com

- Heil RS 1 12' riser brand new \$ 30.00

Contact Walt, N2WJR at N2WJR07@gmail.com

- Kenwood TS 590, asking \$750
- Yaesu FT 990 w/ speaker, asking \$700
- Yaesu FT 950, asking \$750.00
- Yaesu FT 1200 asking \$1000.00

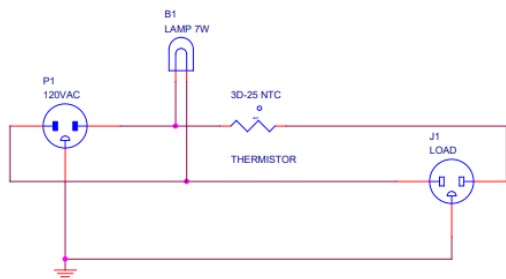
Contact: Frank 518-636-3510

Sell your unused gear with a
free ad in Sidebands!
Send details to: W2RBJ@Outlook.com

Pro Tip: Soft Start Power Hungry Gear

If your uninterruptible power supply (UPS) beeps or your lights dim when you start up a device like a laser printer, here's a simple circuit to ease the power surge they create!

For example, when a laser printer "wakes up" from sleep mode it can draw as much as 11 amps or more, raising havoc with a UPS. Nip the problem in the bud by running it through an easily built soft start circuit like the one below:



The thermistor chosen -- NTC Thermistor #3D-25 -- is rated for 9 Amps continuous. This circuit provides a soft start to a current-hungry laser printer. "NTC" stands for Negative Temperature Coefficient. So the resistance drops as temperature (caused by the current) goes up. It has a quiescent resistance at 25 degrees C of 5 Ohms, so, when the 11-amp surge rises, it drops 55 volts to the laser printer, but only for a millisecond or so, and gradually allows the normal 120 VAC through to the device being powered.

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.